

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SAM-01 SPC-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

DRC-01 /126 W

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R 061335Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5332

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1037

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IT

SUBJ: NO AGREEMENTS REACHED DURING ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
VISIT TO TEHRAN

SUMMARY: ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO IRAN OSTENSIBLY
ONE OF RENEWING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR
ITALIAN ECONOMIC MISSION VISIT TEHRAN IN SPRING. NO AGREE-
MENTS WERE MADE. END SUMMARY

1. ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALDO MORO, DURING HIS OFFICIAL
VISIT TEHRAN JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 2, MET WITH HIS COUNTER-
PART, ABBAS KHALATBARI, THE SPEAKER OF THE MAJLIS (LOWER
HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT), PLANS AND BUDGET DIRECTOR, CHIEF OF
NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY AND PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA.

2. ALTHOUGH PRESS HIGHLIGHTED PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP TO DISCUSS
OIL AND ITALY'S POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN IRAN'S FIFTH YEAR
PLAN, ITALIAN EMBASSY INFORMED US PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO
"RE-ESTABLISH" FRIENDLY RAPPORT WITH GOI. ITALIAN EMBASSY
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ASSURED US NO AGREEMENTS OR "ARRANGEMENTS" WERE ENTERED

INTO DURING MORO'S VISIT. POINTED OUT IT FIRST TIME SINCE SEPTEMBER 1970 THAT AN ITALIAN OFFICIAL OF MINISTERIAL RANK HAD VISITED IRAN, AND THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS LONG OVERDUE. ADDED THAT PARTIAL REASON FOR TRIP TO OIL COUNTRIES IN REGION WAS TO ASSURE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT THAT SERIOUS ATTENTION WAS BEING GIVEN BY ITS GOVERNMENT TO PETROLEUM CRISIS.

3. EMBASSY INFORMED THAT DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANIAN OFFICIALS, MORO INDICATED INTEREST IN DOWNSTREAM PROJECTS, AND POSSIBLE ENVESTMENT IN A PETROCHEMICAL PLANT FOR WHICH PRODUCTS WOULD BE EXPORTED TO ITALY. WE WERE TOLD THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SEND AN ECONOMIC MISSION IN THE SPRING TO TEHRAN TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING TRADE RELATIONS. AS FAR AS ITALIAN EMBASSY PROFESSED TO KNOW, THERE WERE NO AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED DURING MORO'S VISIT TO ABU DHABI AND KUWAIT. IT WAS, HOWEVER, CONJECTURED THAT SOMETHING SUBSTANTIVE MIGHT ENSUE FROM MORO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARAABIA.

4. ITALIAN EMBASSY STATED PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA CONGRATULATED MORO ON A SPEECH HE HAD GIVEN TO THE PARLIAMENT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM ROME IN WHICH HE STATED ITALY STRONGLY ADHERES TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242. DESCRIBED VISIT AS CORDIAL AND SAID MORO EXPRESSED TO HOVEYDA ITALY'S "UNDERSTANDING" OF IRAN'S POLICY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND AGREEMENT THAT THE GULF SHOULD BE KEPT FREE FROM OUTSIDER INTERVENTION.
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